

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the
Medical Society of the State of California

Editor, SOL HYMAN, M. D.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Harry E. Alderson, M. D.
Wm. P. Lucas, M. D.

René Bine, M. D.
Sol. Hyman, M. D.

Advertising Committee:

R. E. Bering, M. D., Chairman
Thos. E. Shumate, M. D.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society,	Butler Building.
State Journal,	San Francisco.
Official Register,	
Telephone Douglas 62	

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

VOL. XV

MAY, 1917

No. 5

MOBILIZATION OF MEDICAL RESOURCES.

The United States of America is at war with Germany. The medical profession stands, as always, ready and willing to do its full share of duty. Up to the time of writing (April 16) there has been no clear declaration of what is wanted, no statement concerning the manner of mobilization of the potential medical power of the country. In another column we publish the scheme of the Council of National Defense. This outline should be studied and thoroughly understood by each and every reader of the Journal. It is the means by which the central authority will be enabled to use the capacity of the individual physician to the utmost. The State Committee of the Council of National Defense has a list of names of physicians which it was able to gather many months ago, when the need for the services of all was not pressing, or at least was not understood by the profession to be pressing, and which represents but a small portion of the available medical force which can be used when the country needs it. It consists of the few who *stated* at that time that they were at their country's call, but not of the many who, when the need is at all apparent, are just as ready to serve. The greater part of the profession is in the dark as to just what is wanted of it. It does not know just what to do.

We would urge upon our State Committee of the Council of National Defense that it classify in a scientific manner, which means in a way

available for use, the *entire* medical profession of the state with respect to the work for which each man is best fitted, so that when he is called upon to volunteer or is drafted, he can serve the nation in his fullest measure; so that each unit of the army will have its proper proportion of sanitarians, internists, surgeons, aurists, oculists, dentists, other specialists, and even chiropodists. No detail should be neglected which will give to the men in the field and training-camp, and to that portion of the population remaining at home the best possible care. The Army and the Navy and the Red Cross and the Council of National Defense should work so in harmony that when assignments of men are to be made, the lists of the Council should determine who is the very best man for the position in question and any assignments should immediately be reported to the Council so that its lists will always be up to date. There should be not even a chance of a repetition of such mistakes as were made in the Spanish-American War, when, for instance, one of the most noted public hygienists in the United States was put to doing surgery, and, *after the war*, was a member of the Committee to determine why there was so much typhoid fever in the army-camps.

It is against the policy of the Journal to mention the name of any commercial organization in its editorial columns, but we shall, as a matter of public necessity, be inconsistent. There is available, in the Medical Addressograph Service in San Francisco, a fairly complete classification of the physicians of all schools, licensed to practice the healing arts in the state. This service has the men grouped both geographically and according to specialties, so that it may well serve as a basis upon which the Committee can begin its task. Such a classification by the State Committee, supplemented by lists from the County Committees in which *all* the medical capacity is classified, will be worth while. It is not necessary to know alone who is best fitted to go to the front, but also who is best fitted to work at home. Age, health, dependents and numerous other factors should be taken into account, besides medical fitness.

But all of this work depends upon local funds, so that each county society should immediately appropriate some money for this purpose. Let each society finance its own County Committee and send an adequate sum for the use of the State Committee. The Council of the State Society should appropriate a sum for the work of the State Committee.

In the meanwhile every unattached, unmarried physician under the age of forty-five upon whom the support of others does not depend should immediately join the Officers' Reserve Corps both to minimize the difficulty of recruiting reserve officers, and because immediately camps are established, large numbers of physicians will be necessary. This applies particularly to recent graduates.

The medical profession of the State of California is behind the President and is ready to do its duty.

commercially. To produce one gram of radium element from 400 to 800 tons of carnotite ore must be treated. About 700 tons of chemicals are required for the extraction of one gram of radium.

The quantity of radium employed in the treatment of malignant conditions ranges from five milligrams to one hundred milligrams and upward. For dermatological uses quantities of from five to twenty-five milligrams are employed. In gynecological and surgical conditions from twenty-five milligrams upward are required. The dosage depends upon the nature of the lesion and its location. When larger quantities of radium are employed the exposure may as a rule be correspondingly shortened. The half-life period of radium is 1780 years.

During the Detroit meeting of the American Medical Association last year the American Radium Association was formed for the scientific study of radium and its uses. This organization will hold its next meeting in New York during the week of the American Medical Association Convention.

HEALTH INSURANCE.

If the enabling amendment proposed by the Social Insurance Commission of the State of California goes through the legislature (at this writing it has passed the Senate with every likelihood of receiving a majority in the Assembly), the people will have to decide for themselves as to whether they wish to endorse the principle of health insurance. If they do, we shall be asked to give our services to that class of individuals coming under the act, our organization, fees, etc., to be fixed by law.

If, as we are told, health insurance must come, there are certain fundamental principles, which we think should be impressed upon the minds of every person thinking or talking health insurance.

The cost should be borne partly by the employer, if there be one, partly by the employee, and partly by the State. This is the best way to interest employers in the health of their workers, and to enlist their aid in prevention of disease, for we know that the industry is often responsible for some of the sickness of its employees. The health of employees or their families may be affected by home surroundings, habits, or by the unavoidable incidents of life.

The cost of sickness is not going to be wiped out by health insurance. Its burden is simply going to be shifted. If a man is paid money benefits while ill, for work he is not doing, there is a money loss to someone just the same. But if the worker who ordinarily would have no care, and whose illness would become a serious one, by proper and early care is sick but a short time, there is a money gain to someone, somewhere. And if it is found that to pay physicians and surgeons fees commensurate with their services, is going to make the scheme an expensive one, beyond the means of the three parties who will be asked to contribute thereto, then either the state

must learn that lives cannot be measured by dollars and cents, or it should not engage in health insurance. It is almost pathetic to think that in times of war we are willing to vote for billions for our defense against a foreign enemy, billions for materials which are made but to be destroyed, and yet when at peace, we hesitate to vote a few paltry millions for defense against the enemy who is ever present in our midst: sickness.

The cost is therefore, to our mind, no reason, no excuse for low medical fees. And if we are to have our just dues, we, as citizens, want to deal in these matters directly with the state and not with corporations run for profit, this profit frequently made at the expense of the profession. There are many of us who have complained of the methods of the insurance companies doing industrial accident work. We felt that the State Fund was in a class by itself. But, lo and behold! as a result of its competition with companies run for profit, it too resorted to methods most objectionable to the profession. Without competition, it is claimed, the profession would not have been subjected to the treatment it has received.

Therefore, we object to any bill for health insurance if it does not provide for the exclusion of private companies run for profit, from the field.

Health insurance should not be limited to the man who has a job. Provision should be made to furnish medical care to the unemployed, the shiftless and the pauper. The county now provides for the latter. The state could undertake this and medical men should be paid for service to the indigent as well as to the employed.

But even while considering health insurance, let us see to it that the State give its unqualified support to the State Board of Health in its preventive work. Let us see to it that our housing and factory conditions measure up to the standards imposed by law. And let us try and educate the public to demand only the best medical service, and to appreciate the fact that the best medical service cannot be obtained cheaply, simply by act of legislature.

It is possible that after all, if we are to have health insurance, the best results might be obtained by the universal application to every man, woman or child, whether they pay any part of the cost or not. Cash benefits should be arranged so that only those paying assessments would be entitled to them, or left as now, to existing benefit societies.

It is hoped that the legislature will grant further life to the Social Insurance Commission, with an adequate appropriation to carry on a more intensive study of these matters. R. B.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

At its last meeting the Council granted the Publication Committee permission to increase the size of the Journal 16 pages per issue for a limited period. This will relieve the stagnation of papers received and not yet published.

NEW AND NON-OFFICIAL REMEDIES 1917.

New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1917, contains descriptions of the proprietary and unofficial medicaments which the Council deems worthy of recognition by the medical profession. Every physician who desires to further the cause of scientific prescribing, who is anxious to see this country purged of the blight of the nostrum, and who desires to aid in diminishing the domination of commercialism in therapeutics in this country should have a copy of this book for ready reference.

The Annual Reprint of the Reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry,

for 1916, contains the reports of the Council which were adopted and authorized for publication during 1916. It gives the reason why preparations which have been considered by the Council were admitted to New and Nonofficial Remedies. It also explains why certain preparations included in previous volumes are not contained in the latest (1917) edition of New and Nonofficial Remedies. Up-to-date physicians should possess the Annual Council Reports, as well as New and Nonofficial Remedies.

New and Nonofficial Remedies will be sent postpaid for \$1.00 and the Annual Council Reports for 50 cents, by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn street, Chicago.

W. A. PUCKNER, Secretary,
Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry.

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The regular meeting of the State Board of Health was held in Sacramento, April 7, 1917. There were present: President George E. Ebricht, Vice-President F. F. Gundrum, Secretary Wilbur A. Sawyer, Dr. Robert A. Peers, Dr. Edward F. Glaser and Dr. Adelaide Brown.

President Ebricht, Chairman of the Committee on Public Health and Hygiene of the State Defense Council, presented a report, outlining the work that must necessarily be undertaken by the various bureaus of the State Board of Health under the new State Defense Act. Dr. Ebricht placed special emphasis upon the importance of the control of water supplies and sewage disposal facilities, the work of sanitary inspections, the eradication of malaria, the examination of foods, and the preparation for increased work in epidemiology. Dr. Ebricht's report also touched upon the necessity of preparation for expert work in bacteriology.

The proposed five years and three months' course of training at the Lane Hospital, San Francisco, was accepted as meeting in full the requirements of the Nurses' Registration Act for an accredited training school.

The action of the Secretary in appointing Professor W. B. Herms and Mr. Stanley Freeborn of the University of California to continue mosquito survey work during the present year, without salary, was confirmed.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Tuberculosis, the Santa Clara Hospital was placed upon the list of hospitals eligible for the state subsidy.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, permits for supplying water to consumers were issued to the city of Lodi, the Hayward Water Company and the Marysville Water Company.

The Secretary was authorized to appoint employees of municipalities and public service corporations as inspectors of the State Board of Health for the purpose of patrolling watersheds under the direction of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering.

More than one hundred food and drug cases next came before the board and were passed upon.

W. A. SAWYER, Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS.

Abbott, P. F., Oakland.
Devine, C. T., Oakland.
Harbeck, Chas., Hayward.
Hanley, Jas. C., Hayward.
Smith, A. C., Oakland.
Shade, M. A., Oakland.
Johnson, Edwin E., Concord.
George, W. S., Antioch.
Deissinger-Keser, M., Richmond.
Fraser, W. W., Richmond.
Vestal, Hall, Richmond.
Breneman, J. T., El Cerrito.
Martin, Wallace P., Fresno.
Christal, Chas. H., Eureka.
Bittner, C. L., Sacramento.
Crawford, J. W., Sacramento.
Hale, Nathan Geo., Sacramento.
Lyman, Timothy, Sacramento.
Munger, Arthur Lee, Jr., Sacramento.
Zimmerman, Harold, Sacramento.
Evans, H. R., Trona.
Strong, D. Chas., San Bernardino.
Pediccord, Harper, Fort Bragg.
Stout, Geo. W., Ukiah.
Liftchild, Judson, Ukiah.
Gordon, S. B., Salinas.
Davis, W. W., Brea.
Boyd, J. P., Santa Ana.
Ryan, L. M., Banning.
Green, Jonathan, San Francisco.
Tavlopoulos, Jno. N., San Francisco.
Casper, Ervin J., San Francisco.
Hurwitz, Samuel H., San Francisco.
Smithwick, J. M., Byron Hot Springs.
O'Neill, A. A., San Francisco.
Tobriner, Oscar, San Francisco.
Thomas, R. W., San Diego.
Dunlop, Florence, San Francisco.
Fife, Joseph, San Francisco.
Cookinham, F. H., San Francisco.
Harvey, Richard W., San Francisco.
Green, Jonathan, San Francisco.
Eude, F. Macbeth, Pasadena.
Hall, Wm. Ethelbert, Los Angeles.
Littlefield, E. W., Los Angeles.
Morrison, W. A., Los Angeles.
Stookey, Byron, Los Angeles.
Zarraga, Fernando, Los Angeles.
Rumwell, M. E., San Francisco.
Parsegan, J. E., San Francisco.
Fujimori, N., Los Angeles.
Johnson, C. A., Los Angeles.
Lettice, Fred E., Los Angeles.
Newcomer, Paul W., Los Angeles.
Bishop, F. C., Los Angeles.
Friedman, Maurice, Los Angeles.
Jesbery, Simon, Los Angeles.
Campbell, Matthew, Los Angeles.
Boonshaft, Louis, Los Gatos.

RESIGNED.

Plincz, John K., San Francisco.

DIED.

Gochenauer, David, San Diego.
Dozier, Leonard F., San Francisco.
Parsons, Carl Gehr, Hollywood.
Magnus, Max, San Francisco.
Brune, August E., San Francisco.
Richard, Henry Endicott, Oakland.
White, John L., Sacramento.
Horton, Theron W., Honcut.
Elmer, Clyde Jason, Los Angeles.
Rosencrantz, Nathaniel, San Francisco.
Felt, Rae, Eureka.
De Puy, Anson A., Oakland.
Pollard, John W., Los Angeles.
Noble, Paul B., ———.